



March 14, 2022

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear AASHE Representative:

The Catholic University of America is unique as the national university of the Catholic Church and as the only higher education institution founded by the U.S. bishops. Established in 1887 as a papally chartered graduate and research center, the University began offering undergraduate education in 1904.

Inspired by the teachings of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, the Catholic University of America is committed to safeguarding a sustainable environment on campus. As "a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning," the University offers a distinctive contribution to the entire nation with an important opportunity to address the national conversation on environmental stewardship within the context of the University's Catholic mission and identity.

To that end, The Catholic University of America is pleased to present this Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The STARS submission will support the University in meeting its Sustainability Commitments outlined in the 2020 Five Year Sustainability Plan. The Plan is intended to generate positive environmental change, promote education and research, preserve resources, raise awareness, reduce expenditures, and generate exciting dialogue.

This assessment tool will support our campus sustainability efforts and measure progress. The University will use the STARS assessment to communicate our commitment to environmental stewardship with students, faculty, staff, and other key stakeholders.

Sincerely,

D. Nauta-Rodriguez

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